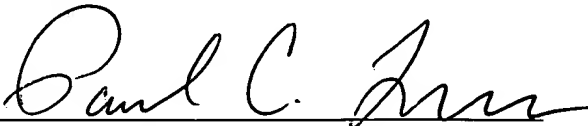


Applicants traverse the election of species required by the Examiner. First, it is noted that claims 8 and 9 are merely claims 2 and 4 which have been rewritten in independent form to include limitations of claim 1. Thus, the subject matter of these claims have both already been considered and the election of species should no longer be necessary in view of the prosecution history of this application. Further, it is noted that while these two claims relate to different species of the pipe, the Examiner has not addressed claims 6 and 7 which relate to a method for manufacturing the pipe and a device for manufacturing the device. It is not understood why the Examiner is requiring an election between the two species of the pipe when other claims are present which are not even part of the same statutory class of invention. Thus, Applicants consider this election of species to be unnecessary and not helpful in the prosecution of the present application.

Applicants submit that the election of species requirement should be removed and that all the claims should be considered.

Respectfully submitted,

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